

**ST. NICHOLAS BULLETIN** Sunday, Apr. 25th 2021

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM. Holy Apostle and Evangelist

Mark (1st c.). Palm Sunday

Philippians 4:4-9 | John 12:1-18

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Blessed feast of Palm Sunday! Please take palms and willows to adorn your homes and your icons (please also bring in any remaining palms or willows from last year, so they may be properly disposed of).

The Holy Week schedule is available on the website and also posted in the back of the Church. Those who have volunteered to help do the Old Testament Readings on Holy Saturday morning, please make sure to get your reading from Fr. John before you leave.

Father John is available today following Liturgy, as well as Monday & Tuesday (by appointment or after Matins) to hear confessions. Father will not turn anyone away, but nevertheless would prefer not to hear confessions between Holy Wednesday and Pascha, as the schedule is very full.

**Reminder:** as Orthodox Christians in good standing, and because “unless you eat and drink” of Holy Communion, “you have no life in you,” faithful parishioners are expected to give confession during the major fasts and to receive Holy Communion. If you have not already done so in some time, prepare yourself for confession and to receive communion. A good rule is this – aim to commune frequently, and confess regularly (there is no exact one-to-one “rule”). Without regular communion we are willing excommunicating ourselves from the Church; we are withholding ourselves from the grace of Christ’s lifegiving body, needed in our spiritual struggle. At the same time, we should approach communion mindfully and with prayerful preparation, fasting, a clear conscience, and if possible attending the vespers/vigil/evening service before the liturgy.

#### **Prayer list Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>**

*Mary Behanna* – in memory of parents Andy & Petrina Gernat (Virgin Mary Kiot)

*Greg Pandrock* – for health of Minnie Pandrock

*Pauline Aitken* – in memory of departed son, Kevin, grandson, Nicholas, and husband Lee / for special intentions / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of uncle Ralph Prystash / for health of sister, Bunnie

*Sandy Aitken* – in memory of dad, Lee, Grandpap Mike, Aunt Helen / health of mother Pauline, Aunt Bunnie, Fr. Igor, Fr. Patrick, Uncle Ralph, Jacques, & Dianna

*Fred & Caroline* – may God’s healing hand be upon all our afflicted brothers and sisters in Christ and wish them a speedy recovery / may God’s watchful eyes be upon our granddaughters Nicole and Chelsea Butti undergoing medical procedures

*Nick & Christine Milchovich* – in memory of infant nephew, Jack Zewe / health of Ralph Prystash / health of Jacque Rugh / health of Fr. Igor

*Deacon Rodion & Matushka Sandy* – for health of Deacon Rodion, son Nicholas & daughter Christina / for special intentions

*Tom & Elaine Backstrom* – for special intentions / memory of Mom & Dad / memory of Paul Zolak / God’s healing hand be upon sister, Michele / God’s blessing upon grandchildren Sydney, Luke, Freddy, & Madison

*Ralph & Ina Prystash* – (altar vigils) for health of daughter Jacque

*Ralph Prystash* – for health of Ina & Dianna

*Rodney Prystash* – For health of family

*Sandra Klizas* – in memory of Stephen & Helen Drake, Frank & June Drake / special intentions

*Dimitri & Pauline Petro* – in memory of infant grandson, Jack Zewe / In memory of Janice Kash / in memory of cousin Mary Paraschak / for birthday of Pauline Aitken / for health of Jim & Vera Hays / for health of Natalie & Rob / for health of Christine & Alexandra / for health of Shelley & Rachel / for health of Jonah & Catherine / for health of Kyra & Will Ethan / for health of Fr. Igor / for health of Bunnie

*Sandy Carroll* – for special intentions / memory of departed parents Mae & Pete Ruev / health of all parishioners

*Michael Horan* – memory eternal to my loving wife, Rebecca / for health of Cindy and for safe trip / for health of Bill Priatko / for special intentions

*Fr. Igor* – in blessed memory of beloved Mat. Irene

*Mark Soroka* – for health of father, Fr. Igor

#### **Moving From Lent to Holy Week**

Today is the Sunday of our Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem, beginning the week of His Passion...And as we get ready for Pascha, our Lord extends the same invitation to us as He extended to James and John in today’s Gospel: “are you able and willing to drink the cup that I drink from?” To help us prepare to drink from the wellspring of Pascha, here are some suggestions:

**Attend the services.** There are a number of services during Holy Week. It is through worship that we unite ourselves to

Christ. Holy Week is a single unbroken Liturgy that invites us to participate in, and partake of the saving love of Jesus Christ.

**Create silence.** Disconnect entirely from television, radio, social media. The world and all your “news”, “friends” and “followers” will still be there after Pascha. Give yourself the space and opportunity to be drawn by Christ more deeply into His words and actions. To hear the “still, small voice” of Christ, we have to silence the relentless cascade of distraction we willingly pump full force into our hearts and minds.

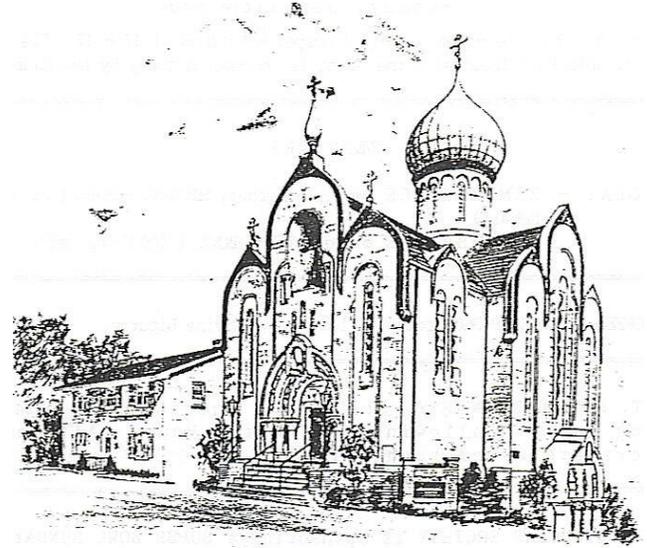
**Read a Gospel.** Set aside time each day to read several chapters. In the Gospels we do not find words about Christ, we find words from Christ. Each verse of Holy Scripture is a word spoken directly to you by the raised and glorified Lord. Each word is a word for now.

**Seek forgiveness and healing.** Each of us have relationships in need of healing. Admit your mistakes, and forgive the mistakes made by others. Offer yourself in love to at least one other person from whom you are estranged.

**Call someone who is sick or lonely.** Visit them if you can. Share yourself with someone who needs you. We are part of the mystical body of Christ, and we are called to a life of unity and communion with one another.

**Bright Week and beyond!** With Pascha comes the True Light that enlightens the whole world. The radiance of Pascha changes everything. Each Sunday is a Pascha, thus each week is a Holy Week. Holy Week and Pascha are the models for every week of the year. Jesus Christ touches all of time through the Cross, and all of time collapses into the eternal now of His divine love.

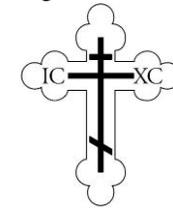
*May we live all of life in the light of the Resurrection!*  
(adapted from Archpriest John Whiteford)



*"Someone who steals ten times a day might decide one day to steal only 9 times, and this may be enough for God to enter in and remove him from his sinful ways. God's love is madness indeed, but the madness of God is infinitely wiser than the wisdom of men."—Archimandrite Zacharias*

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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Deacon ROBERT MOTICHAK (Attached)  
Dr. DIMITRI PETRO, Choir Director

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